

An aerial night view of a city, likely Singapore, with a complex network of glowing white lines overlaid on the scene. The lines connect various points across the city, symbolizing innovation and growth. The city lights are visible in the background, and the overall color palette is dominated by blues and whites.

BUSINESS FINLAND

Innovation and Growth Research 2021

THEMES 2021 - COMPETITIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Themes (Pick one of these research fields):

- I. The drivers of growth competitiveness, exports and the role of capabilities in small advanced economies.
- II. Capacity of innovation activities in companies and innovation policy to impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability.
- III. The resilience of Finnish companies against external shocks and their long-term effects.

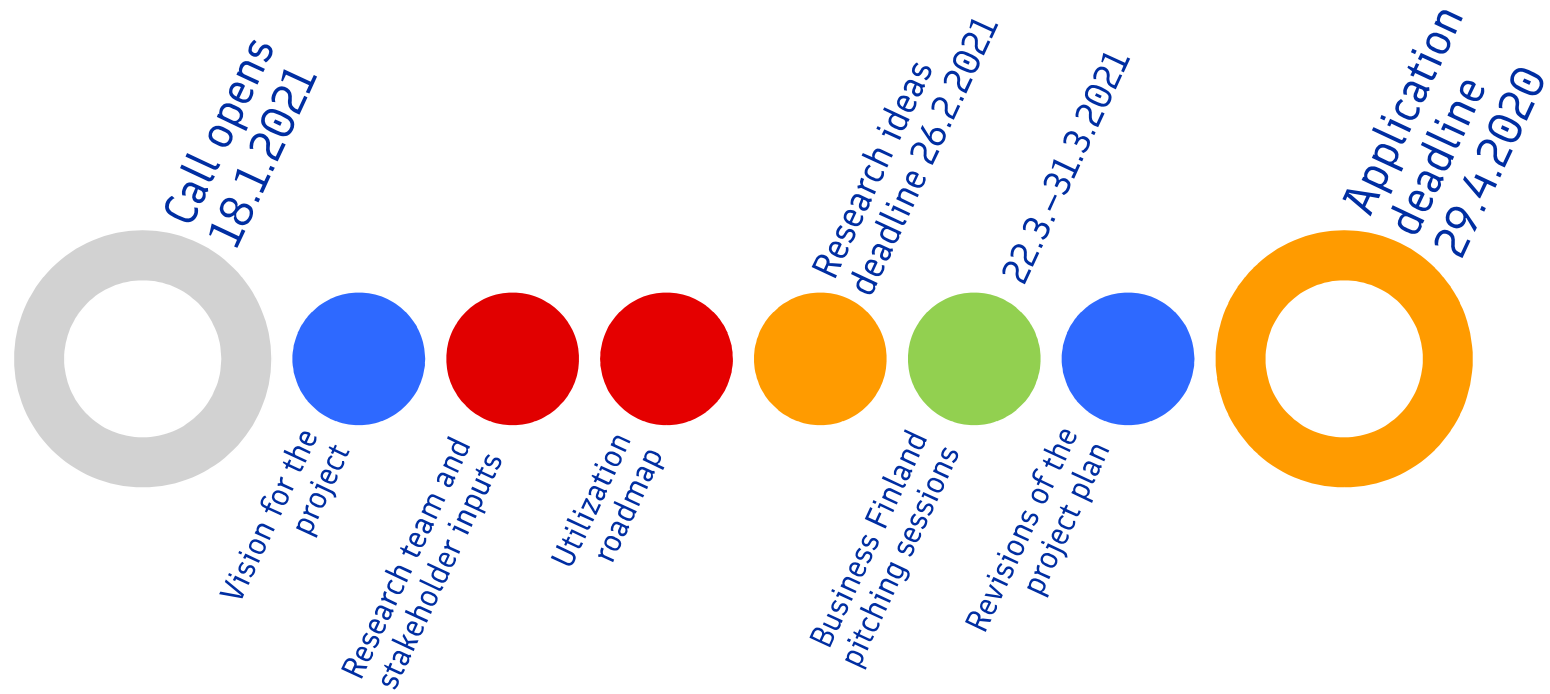
THEMES 2021 - COMPETITIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Themes (Pick one of these research fields):

- I. The drivers of growth competitiveness, exports and the role of capabilities in small advanced economies.** Growth competitiveness measures the features of people's living standards and business environment in the long-term. Main questions in this research topic are as follows: How to improve incentives that improve capabilities, internationalization of companies, and creation of innovations that enhance new ideas and productivity in the economy? How to improve the development of radical innovations and creative destruction? How to improve the effectiveness of public research, development and innovation funding in order to enhance the deployment of new technologies, creation of new business models, and innovative companies? What other factors should be considered as determinants of growth competitiveness?
- II. Capacity of innovation activities in companies and innovation policy to impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability.** One of the aims of research, development and innovation activities is to produce solutions for sustainable development of global economy. This requires dialogue between public actors and companies looking for sustainable solutions. How does the growing need for sustainable solutions generate new and rapidly growing market opportunities for companies, and benefit to the economy and society? In what ways can innovation policy create sustainability to society and environment, in addition to economy? How should one manage innovation environment in order to facilitate the path towards sustainable economy? How to interlink the goals of carbon-neutral society, sustainability and economic growth and public actions? In addition, research ideas that address the role of companies in transitions to more sustainable societies can be considered from the viewpoint how e.g. new types of funding and other public interventions can stimulate companies to take such roles*.
- III. The resilience of Finnish companies against external shocks and their long-term effects.** Covid-19 pandemic and other external shocks accumulate barriers for globally operated companies in the future. These shocks harm companies who operate, or are entering, the global market, as international demand declines and global value chains are disrupted. How and by which means have companies and different industry sectors survived during and after the these shocks in Finland? How can companies improve their resilience against external shocks, prepare for the decline in exports and tackle direct supply shocks if the “black swans” disrupt the international supply and value chains? What is the role of public actors in supporting the adaptability of private sector?

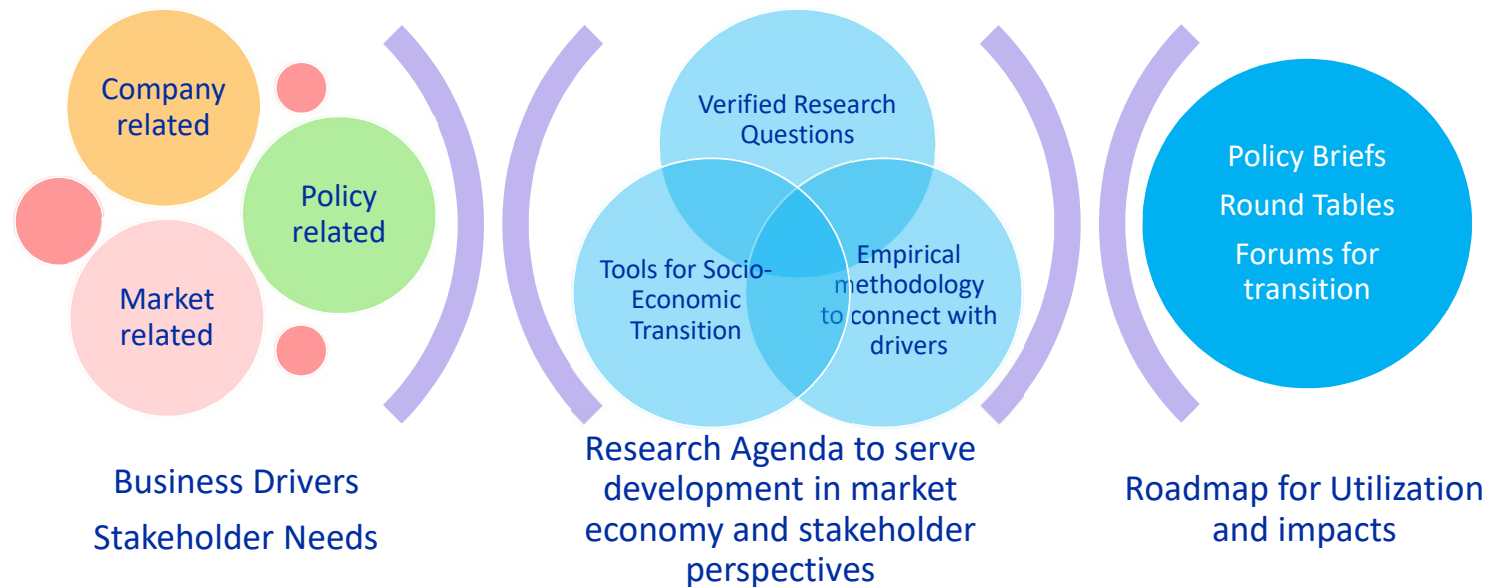
*) Research ideas related to transformative innovation policy could also contribute to, and benefit from, the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortia (<http://www.tipconsortium.net/>) that Business Finland participates in.

STEPS IN 2021



Elements of Utilization Roadmap

“Research questions, methods and delivery must be business, market, and policy driven”



WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR PITCHING? – EVALUATION CRITERIA

Prepare three documents for research ideas and send them in **one document** to email address: [innovaatitutkimus\(at\)businessfinland.fi](mailto:innovaatitutkimus(at)businessfinland.fi) (deadline 26.2.2021):

1. Idea description: Abstract and description of the project (max two A4 pages)
 - Weight **50 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). *Evaluation criteria: novelty and relevance of the research idea*
2. Utilization roadmap (max one A4 page)
 - Can be partially co-produced with identified potential beneficiaries
 - Weight **20 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). *Evaluation criteria: versatility and adaptability to its purpose.*
3. Team description, preliminary funding plan, international collaboration and composition of the steering group (max one A4 page)
 - Weight **30 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). *Evaluation criteria: quality, credibility and suited division of labor and international collaboration, balanced composition of the steering group considering the objectives of the research proposal.*

Business Finland invites max. 8 ideas to present a 15 min. pitching + 30 min sparring and discussion session (Weeks 12-13 (22.3.–31.3.2021)). Out of these, max 5 ideas will be asked to continue to the full project application phase.

WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR FULL PROJECT APPLICATION?

After the pitching sessions, 4-5 applicants are asked to continue to the full project application phase. Compile a full application (including project plan max 15 pages) **in case that pitching discussions support it** by using our online service: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu/>

1. Description of planned work

- work packages
- research team
- project schedule

2. Stakeholders and funding plan

- Description of supplementing funding (by other stakeholders)
- Stakeholder commitments (preliminary indications for commitment)
- Utilization roadmap
- Composition of steering group

Note: Contents of the idea gathering should equal with the final project plan (and evaluation frame)

Commitment for external funding and international experts: https://www.businessfinland.fi/globalassets/finnish-customers/01-funding/08-guidelines--terms/forms/ilmoitus_projektiin_osallistumisesta__notification_of_participation_in_project.docx

EVALUATION FRAME - WHAT WILL BE APPRECIATED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATIONS?

1. Impact and Relevance (50 %)

- 1.1 Relevance to the call themes as well as innovation and growth policy
- 1.2 Quality and credibility of the research plan
- 1.3 Quality and credibility of the utilization roadmap with the stakeholders

2. International collaboration (20 %)

- 2.1 Quality and volume of international collaboration (top research groups and stakeholders) *(1) international joint activity; 2) commitment to take part to the project by international experts*

3. Research team (30 %)

- 3.1 Multidisciplinary approach in research team
- 3.2 Resources and knowledge of research team

IMPACT STEPS FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH CALL

Inputs

- Volume of Innovation funding
- Top-skilled and internationally oriented research work
- Competence base sourced from innovation environment actors, Business Finland's strategy and impact assessment

Innovation research / Project activities

Project activities / funding criteria

- Challenge-based research agenda, which develops new methodologies for stakeholders
- Utilization roadmaps with system level impact
- Team CVs for credibility and development of research groups
- Policy Briefs for creating basis for dialogue between stakeholder groups
- Round Table Discussions for supporting the dialogue
- Transition Arenas for creating new innovation activities

Outputs / direct and indirect results in Finland

Project activities

- The quantity and quality of innovation research increase and meets the global context
- New innovation policy tools are established based on strong impact analysis
- Exchange of know-how between research sector, innovation policy actors and companies is enhanced to support renewal of businesses
- Finnish innovation environment's capabilities to catalyze emergence of new growth increases

Impacts

- Radical innovations and new business models renew economic structure
- Sustainable growth of companies and the economy – What are the driving forces of new economic growth?
- New tools for companies to improve resilience
- Public and private RDI funding and activities generate overall increase in capabilities, productivity and sustainability